(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Not applicable.

Village Resource Centres

†1958. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a plan has been formulated to set up Village Resource Centres (VRC) in the villages of each block of the country with the help of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO);

(b) if so, by when this plan would be implemented; and

(c) the details of the areas about which information would be provided by the Village Resource Centres at the block level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Village Resource Centres are being set up in association with the partner agencies (such as NGOs, Trusts, Government agencies) in selected large villages of the Country depending on the developmental needs. So far 276 VRCs have been set up by ISRO in 14 States.

(c) Village Resource Centres provide space based information and services in the areas of education, awareness creation, healthcare, vocational training and skill development, agriculture, land and water resources management, livestock management, fisheries, weather and other Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enabled services.

Projects under MPLADS

1959. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ongoing projects under MPLAD schemes all over the country;

(b) how many of them relate to 'Tsunami' reconstruction works;

(c) whether it is a fact that many important projects cannot be taken up on account of restriction in the guidelines; and

(d) whether the guidelines are relaxable according to suitability of the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) Based on the Monthly Progress Reports received from District Authorities till 20.8.2007, the number of ongoing works under MPLAD Scheme is 100961.

(b) There are 74 ongoing works relating to 'Tsunami' reconstruction works.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The works under MPLAD Scheme are taken up as per the Guidelines on MPLADS. Annexure-II of the Guidelines contains the list of prohibited works under MPLADS.

(d) MPLADS Guidelines are uniform for all States.

CPWD Engineers joining private companies

†1960. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many engineers of CPWD are leaving their Government jobs and joining private companies where they are getting more salaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of engineers who have taken VRS or resigned from CPWD in the last two years;

(c) whether Government would take any steps to stop this trend; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

World Bank assistance for towns

1961. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank is providing assistance for development of towns in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the projects launched thereunder in Bihar and Maharashtra; and

(c) the amounts of funds allocated during the last three years in Bihar and Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) and (c) A Statement is enclosed.

Statement

Details of projects launched in Bihar and Maharashtra and funds allocated upto 2007

Currently there is no on-going World Bank assisted project in the State of Bihar. In Maharashtra, the World Bank is supporting the Government of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.